

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A load carrier for coupling to a vehicle, said load carrier comprising:

a loading frame including a first arm, a second arm, and a base extending between the first arm and the second arm to form a U shape; [[and]]

connecting members connected to the loading frame to couple the load carrier to the vehicle; and

a supporting arch that extends substantially upwardly from and transversely to said loading frame, said supporting arch being divisible into first and second arch parts, ~~each of which~~ the first arch part is pivotally coupled to the first arm of said loading frame and the second arch part is pivotally coupled to the second arm of said loading frame such that the first arch part is coaxial with the first arm and the second arch part is coaxial with the second arm,

wherein, when divided, each of said first and second arch parts is configured to be pivoted down to a storage position lying substantially level with said loading frame, and

wherein said arch parts are configured to be interlocked substantially directly to each other into an in-use position, in which said first and said second arch parts substantially alone form said supporting arch.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein, when unlocked from said in-use position, said first and second arch parts are substantially

immediately pivotable, by a single movement for each, into their respective said storage positions.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said pivotal coupling between said arch parts and said loading frame is configured such that said arch parts, when they are pivoted, are shiftable laterally relative to each other by such a distance that said arch parts are pivotable without giving rise to pivot-blocking contact therebetween.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 22, wherein said lateral shift is implemented automatically when said arch parts are pivoted.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 22, wherein each said arch part is configured to shift laterally away from other arch parts when being pivoted.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said ~~pivotal coupling comprises a cam or~~ first arm includes a groove and the first arch part includes a follower mechanism positioned in the groove such that, when said first arch part is pivoted down to the storage position, the follower mechanism interacts with the groove to move the first arm in a direction along the axis of the first arch part and the first arm into the sleeve.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A load carrier ~~according to claim 20 for coupling to~~ a vehicle, said load carrier comprising:
a loading frame; and

a supporting arch that extends substantially upwardly from and transversely to said loading frame, said supporting arch being divisible into first and second arch parts, each of which arch parts is pivotally coupled to said loading frame such that, when divided, each of said first and second arch parts is configured to be pivoted down to a storage position lying substantially level with said loading frame,

wherein said arch parts are configured to be interlocked substantially directly to each other into an in-use position, in which said first and said second arch parts substantially alone form said supporting arch, and

wherein said pivotal coupling comprises a shaft or tube portion that is rotatable in a sleeve portion, in which arrangement one of its parts defines a groove that interacts with a pin disposed in an other part and which groove has an inclination relative to the longitudinal axis of said pivotal coupling, with an effect that said parts of the shaft/tube and sleeve arrangement shift automatically relative to each other along the longitudinal axis of said pivotal coupling when said associated arch part is pivoted.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein, when said arch parts are in their respective said storage positions, said arch parts occupy substantially the same height as said loading frame.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein, when said arch parts are in their respective said storage positions, said arch parts lie at least partially on top of said loading frame.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said first arch part and said second arch part are configured to be interlocked directly to each other

by closure of a manually operable coupling that comprises a first coupling part integrated with said first arch part and a second coupling part configured to co-operate with said first coupling part and integrated with said second arch part.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 29, wherein said coupling comprises a manually operable quick-release coupling.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 29, wherein said coupling is configured for tool-free locking or unlocking.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 29, wherein said coupling comprises a screw joint.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 32, wherein said screw joint comprises a male portion integrated with one said arch part and a female portion integrated with an other said arch part, said female portion being configured to substantially envelope said male portion when said screw joint is closed.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 32, wherein said screw joint comprises a male portion integrated with one said arch part and a female portion integrated with an other said arch part, and wherein said female portion of said screw joint comprises a hand-grip for manual twist release of said screw joint.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said arch parts and said loading frame comprise hollow and preferably tubular members.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein said load carrier comprises a bicycle carrier.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A kit of parts configured to be assembled into a load carrier, the kit of parts comprising:

a loading frame including a first arm, a second arm, and a base extending between the first arm and the second arm to form a U shape; [[and]]

connecting members connected to the loading frame to couple the load carrier to the vehicle; and

a supporting arch that, when assembled onto said loading frame, extends substantially upwardly from and transversely to said loading frame, said supporting arch comprising divisible first and second arch parts, ~~each of which~~ the first arch part ~~part~~ is configured to be pivotally coupled to the first arm of said loading frame and the second arch part is pivotally coupled to the second arm of said loading frame such that the first arch part is coaxial with the first arm and the second arch part is coaxial with the second arm,

wherein, when divided, each of said first and second arch parts is configured to pivot down to a storage position lying substantially level with said loading frame, and

wherein said arch parts ~~being~~ are configured to be interlocked substantially directly to each other into an in-use position in which said first and said second arch parts substantially alone form said supporting arch.

Claim 38 (New): A load carrier according to claim 20, wherein the connecting members are pivotally connected to the loading frame such that the connected members are configured to fold inwards towards a middle of and beneath the loading frame.

Claim 39 (New): A kit of parts according to claim 37, wherein the connecting members are pivotally connected to the loading frame such that the connected members are configured to fold inwards towards a middle of and beneath the loading frame.